

Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-07

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETEL, ITU, US, UR

SUBJECT:SOVIET BROADCAST INTERFERENCE ON VOA FREQUENCY.

REF: MOSCOW 10423.

1. 300 KW VOA MEDIUM WAVE TRANSMITTER NEAR MUNICH, FRG IS OPERATED IN COMPLETE CONFORMANCE WITH ARTICLE 9 OF ITU RADIO REGULATIONS TO WHICH BOTH U.S. AND USSR ARE SIGNATORY. ALTHOUGH FREQUENCY 1196 KHZ ORIGINALLY APPEARED (1948) IN INTERNATIONAL FREQUENCY LIST WITH A POWER OF 70 KW, IT WAS DULY RE-REGISTERED IN 1974 WITH A POWER OF 300 KW. RECAPITULATIVE SUPPLEMENT NO. 6 TO THE INTERNATIONAL FREQUENCY LIST DATED AUGUST 1, 1974 SHOWS POWER CORRECTLY FOR VOA STATION AS 300 KW AND COVERAGE AREA AS CIRAF ZONE 28 WHICH INCLUDES ALL OF HUNGARY, CZECHOSLOVAKIA AND POLAND. ALTHOUGH ITU REGISTRATION PROCEDURE PERMITTED USSR TO RAISE OBJECTION WHILE 300 KW REGISTRATION WAS IN PROGRESS, THEY DID NOT
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DO SO.

2. ON THE OTHER HAND, USSR ATTEMPT TO REGISTER THE FREQUENCY FOR USE AT MINSK HAS BEEN FOUND UNSATISFACTORY

BY THE ITU BECAUSE OF THE INTERFERENCE BEING CAUSED TO THE VOA STATION AT MUNICH. THE ATTEMPTED USSR REGISTRATION IS RECORDED IN IFRB CIRCULAR 1130, PART IA DATED SEPTEMBER 24, 1974. IT WAS RETURNED BY THE ITU AS UNFAVORABLE BECAUSE OF INTERFERENCE TO VOA MUNICH AS SHOWN IN IFRB CIRCULAR 1136, PART III, DATED NOVEMBER 5, 1974. IN SUMMARY, VOA'S USE OF FREQUENCY 1196 KHZ WITH 300 KW IS IN ACCORDANCE WITH INTERNATIONAL REGULATIONS WHILE SOVIETS' USE AT MINSK IS CONTRARY TO REGULATIONS, IN OUR OPINION.

3. FIRST SESSION ITU LONG AND MEDIUM WAVE REGIONAL BROADCASTING CONFERENCE LAST OCTOBER VOTED TO REALIGN PRESENT FREQUENCY CHANNELS. IN PROPOSED NEW PLAN, PRESENT 1196 KHZ CHANNEL BECOMES NEW 1197 KHZ CHANNEL. INTERFERENCE PROBLEM BETWEEN MUNICH AND MINSK STATIONS REMAINS THE SAME. KISSINGER

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